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**IN THE ABSTRACT:****Please amend the pending abstract of the disclosure as follows:**

-- A pontoon includes a generally elongated shell made of at least two shell segments assembled in an end-to-end configuration at adjacent male and female segment connecting ends. Each segment has a segment peripheral wall surrounding a segment inner volume. Each segment defines at least one end aperture extending into the segment inner volume from one of the segment longitudinal ends. The female segment connecting end is a longitudinal end portion of the segment peripheral wall. A filling component is positioned within the segment inner volumes. The filling component is made out of a generally buoyant material. ~~Manufacturing the pontoon involves longitudinally and slidably inserted inserting the filling component into the end apertures in a direction generally along the shell longitudinal axis and towards the opposed segment longitudinal end.~~ The volume of the filling component ~~slidably inserted~~ into the shell is such that the combination of the shell and the filling component forms a generally buoyant combination. A mold for the fabrication of the shell segments is also disclosed. --